

THE
Camellia
REVIEW





INSIDE COVER: 'CHRIS BERGAMINI' Photo by Bradford King

FRONT COVER: 'VALENTINE DAY VARIEGATED' Photo by Bradford King

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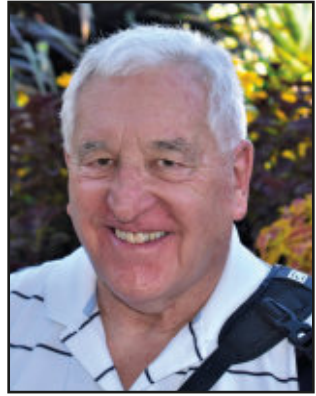
THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

PRUNING: NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

BY BRADFORD KING

Spring is the time to prune camellias, pick up spent flowers, and begin a fertilizing program.

There were “old-timer members” who mentored many of us and who severely pruned their camellias. Elsie Bracci cut limbs and pruned so severely that her husband Sergio couldn’t look and usually left for a few hours. Mel Belcher pruned but thought fall was better than spring. He would typically leave one superior bud to a branch. Both won plenty of awards in the next year’s camellia show season.



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I cannot prune as they did. My recommendation is to prune dead wood, crossed branches, and shape the camellias as needed. When a camellia does not bloom adequately, I prune it more heavily and if in a container, repot it.

I follow two different camellia fertilizing approaches. Marilee Gray always used Miracle-Gro for acid loving plants three to four times a season until the leaves were thick and dark green; then she switched to cotton seed meal every 60 days. I have been using the foliar spray Miracle-Gro once or twice and switching to cotton seed meal.

This year I went back to the 5-1-1 formula used by old timers like the Braccis and Jacks, now in camellia heaven. Five parts cotton seed meal, one part iron, and one part blood meal. This will be used twice—April first (not an April Fools' day trick) and again in mid-May followed by cotton seed meal every 45 days when the summer hot temperatures arrive. Blood meal and Miracle-Gro for acid loving plants have elevated levels of nitrogen (greater than 10%) which stimulates growth but can burn foliage, so be careful, especially with nonreticulata hybrids. I use half the amount on them. Typically, I use a handful around the base of plants in the ground and less with potted camellias based on their size. Less is better than more when fertilizing camellias.



NUCCIO'S GREEN BOTTLES, P. 21, 'HIGH FRAGRANCE'



'CITY OF NEWBERG' Photo by Don Bergamini

NEW TO ME ... WHAT ABOUT YOU?

BY BRADFORD KING

One of the thrills of attending a camellia show is seeing a camellia you have never seen before. In Southern California, it is frequently seen at the Nuccio's Nurseries table found among the 200 blooms they bring to display. On other occasions, it was entered by a grower from northern California who had to pick flowers and drive 5 or 6 hours the day before to enter the show.

This season Nuccio's Nurseries had a duo of medium formal double blush flowers edged in pink that were new to me. 'Blush Purity' is not listed in the *2020 Camellia Nomenclature* but is in the Nuccio's Catalogue. It is a 'Purity' sport that blooms mid to late season.

Usually once a season, Carol and Gary Schanz make the trip from Sacramento to visit Nuccio's Nurseries, friends, and enter a camellia show. In 2022, they entered two beautiful winners in the medium Japonica class. 'Theresa Burnham' is a formal double dark red flower introduced by Walter Creighton, Semmens, Alabama, in 2013. This beautiful camellia got Best of



'BLUSH PURITY'



'THERESA BURNHAM'

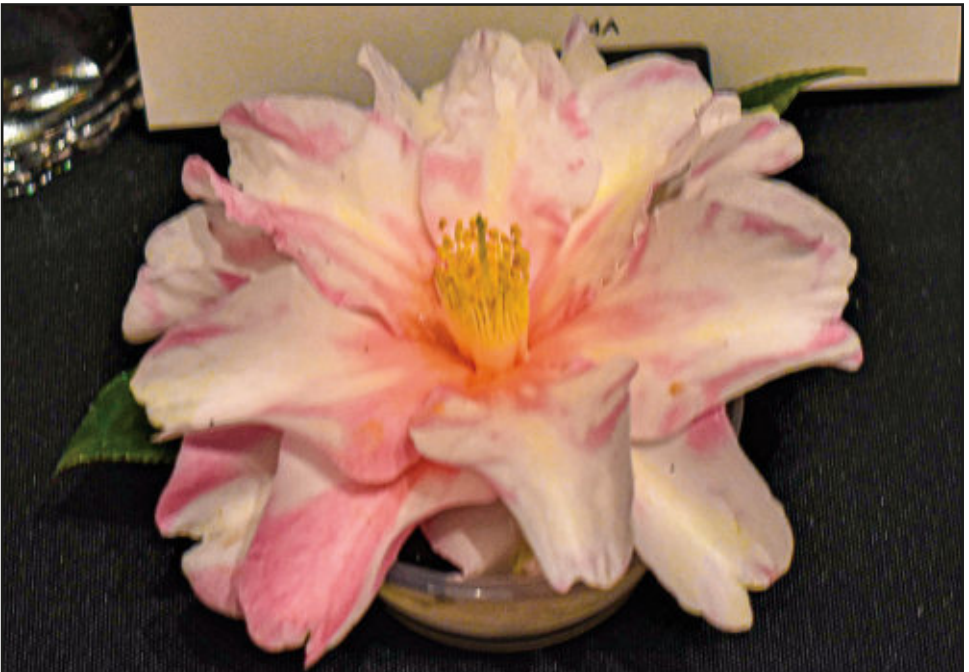


'YEAMANS HALL'

class at the Pacific Camellia Society show held at Descanso Gardens.

In the same medium japonica class, 'Yeamans Hall' won Court of Honor. This formal double is shell pink with darker pink stripes making a beautiful entry.

Current research has identified there are eight viruses in camellias. The key is to have one or more that make a beautiful flower. Gary Schanz variegated 'Sue Kendall' for his camellia friends from Modesto, California, as



'LUCKY STAR VARIEGATED'



'SUE KENDALL VARIEGATED'

well as 'Lucky Star'. Since he gave the plant material to Nuccio's Nurseries to propagate, this means we all can get these cultivars with excellent variegation. Thanks to Gary!

In this same camellia show, Richard and Barbara Council won Best in the nonreticulata class with 'Lucky Star Variegated' and Best in the Japonica miniature and small with 'Sue Kendall Variegated'. They purchased the plants from Nuccio's.

Don and Mary Bergamini come to one or more camellia shows from Martinez, California. Don is noted for hybridizing, growing, and showing



'RAYNA SIMONE'

miniature and small camellias. This year he entered 'Rayna Simone' which he introduced in 2017. The miniature anemone red flower was named for a granddaughter. This was her first appearance in a Southern California show. A lovely camellia for an active child, Rayna Simone attends Hidden Valley Elementary School and enjoys dance and gymnastics.

Don has entered some



'PARTY POPPERS'



'MARGHERITA COLEONI VAR.'

of Dan Charvet's introductions. Dan spent 50 years as a camellia breeder and owner of Heartwood Nursery in Fort Bragg, California. He focused on developing beautiful landscape camellias that are "self-grooming" (shed by themselves) and require less water to thrive and bloom in the garden. He registered 25 *C. reticulata* hybrids and six nonreticulata hybrids before he retired and closed Heartland Nursery. In Southern California, we rarely see his introductions, but thanks to Don Bergamini, we have seen 'Ms. Mo', 'Shelter Cove', and 'City of Newberg'.

The City of Newberg, a suburb of Portland, Oregon, has a tradition of decorating the downtown with camellias. They asked Dan to name one of his cultivars 'City of Newberg' when the state legislature named Newberg the "Camellia City of Oregon." The 'City of Newberg' has a very large semi-double pink flower that shades lighter on the petal edges. It is a vigorous upright bushy plant.

This year I was surprised when Don entered treated 'Party Poppers' in the miniature nonreticulata class and won. Many camellia show people don't gib flowers, and even those who do, usually don't gib miniature flowers. I ignored 'Party Poppers' because it is hard to see the growth bud, and it has clusters of buds. Therefore, the grower must disbud and gib only one of the buds on a stem. In other words, it was new to me that a miniature cluster blooming camellia can not only be gibbed, but win at a show. I have generally enjoyed 'Party Poppers' as part of a camellia floral display.

Joey Goldfarb entered 'Margherita Coleoni Variegated' in the "Old Tim-



'SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL'



NICK TCHAN AND HIS WINNING ENTRY, 'ELAINE'S BETTY'

er's" class, a flower not often seen today. It was a first for me, and it also won first place. It is interesting to hear what Joey Goldfarb said. "We have many old-timers on our property which is across the street from what was then the famous Ralph Peer estate. Over the years, we made friends with Jimmy Tuliano, the Peer's head gardener. He was a fantastic guy; there was nothing he couldn't do. After Mr. Peer was no longer with us, sometime in the 1980s a section of the estate was to be sold, and hundreds of his camellias would be destroyed. Jim invited us to dig as many as we wanted. We wanted them ALL! At that time a dozen young men were living with my family. We diligently spent hours digging up one plant. We made very large root balls and wheeled them across the street. It transformed our property. It took as much as five years for some of them to get reestablished. Well, that is how we have so many Old-Timers!"

As we conclude this article, let's introduce two young people new to Southern California Camellia shows. Michael Ossen is a 21-year-old with a passion for camellias. He takes care of an older collection for his family and is regularly adding new camellias. This season he won as a novice in the first show of the season with an excellent bloom of 'Something Beautiful'.

Nick Tchan grew up in Southern California. This year he built a collection of 400 camellias at his parents' home before relocating to South Carolina for work. He returned for the Pacific Camellia Show, swept the Intermediate class, and collected over two dozen crystal trophies that were won in several different classes in this show. One of his favorite wins was 'Elaine's Betty'.



THE HUNTINGTON NORTH VISTA STATUES, CAMELLIAS, AND FOUNTAIN



THE HUNTINGTON

North Vista

BY BRADFORD KING

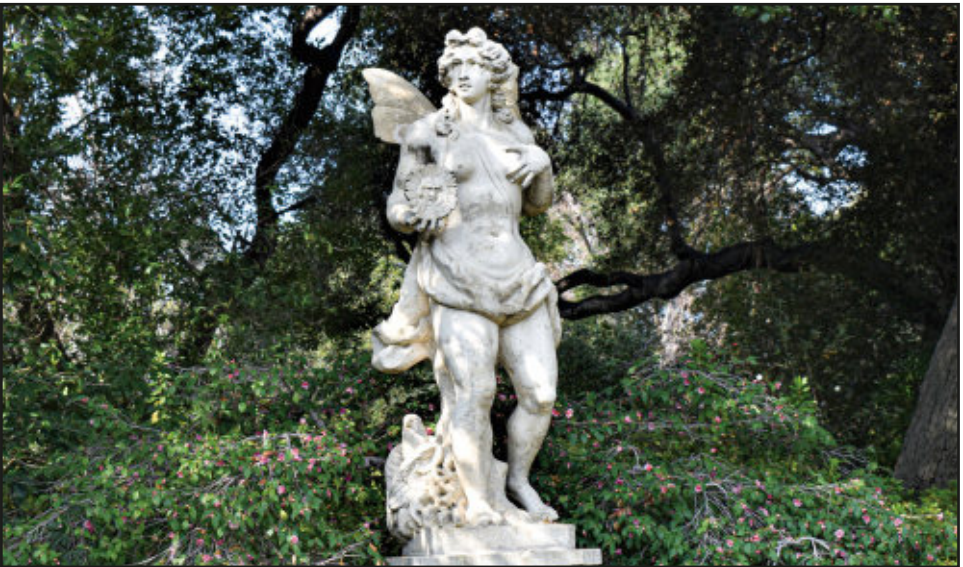
The Huntington Botanical Gardens North Vista features camellias and azaleas planted around 17th and 18th century limestone statues. They are shaded by Live Oaks and Palm trees. It is a beautiful landscape design that highlights both the statues and plants. The statues are allegoric dramatic representations of abstract ideas and events.



ALLEGORY OF SANGUINITY

Literary examples of an allegory are Orwell's *Animal Farm* where the animals' interactions represent political figures and events. The Harry Potter stories have been interpreted as an allegorical fight between good and evil with Harry as a Christ figure and "his name who should not be named" as Satan. Another allegorical story is *The Lord of the Flies*, a dramatic representation of the effects of war on the breakdown of society.

Eight of The Huntington statues, and the camellias planted with them,



ALLEGORY OF TRUTH



ALPHEUS AND ARETRUSA

are highlighted here. We begin with The Allegory of Sanguinity statue which portrays confidence and optimism. It is paired with the 'Marchioness of Salisbury' which has small dark maroon peony flowers with white markings.

The Allegory of Truth is surrounded by a large planting of *C. rosaeiflora* which has masses of small pink flowers. The plant grows in a lovely upright arching manner around the statue base. The Allegory of Truth has many



ALLEGORY OF PEACE

meanings in literature, usually symbolizing the relationship between truth and humanity, even human beings fear of truth. Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" is a classic literary example.

An impressive mature 15-foot tall 'Fashionata' towers over the Allegory of the Greek river god Alpheus and Arethusa the water nymph. He pursued her until eventually their waters mingled. Every winter 'Fashionata' produces abundant beautiful large deep pink semidouble flowers with curled and creped petals. It is the most impressive of these statues and camellia plantings.

Agostino Testa (1662-1735) was one of the creators of these allegorical figures in the Huntington North Vista. A good example is this figure representing peace. It is paired with *C. japonica* 'Iris', a medium formal double white flower with occasional pink stripes. This camellia was introduced in 1848 by Baptiste and Son Nursery from Sidney, Australia.

The Allegory of Flattery is enhanced when it is paired with the large light orchid pink peony flower, with strawberry highlights, of 'Owen Henry'. It is a gorgeous flower which makes this work of art more attractive, which is the definition of "to flatter." The ancient Roman God Mars was the son of Jupiter and Juno. He was the most prominent of the Roman Gods of war. He is seen in the North Vista with the red medium semidouble *C. japonica* 'Wildfire' in the background. This statue of Mars was the creation of Ciacom Casselli (1682-1757).



ALLEGORY OF FLATTERY

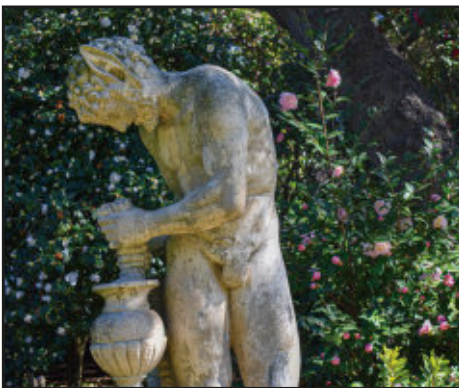


MARS WITH 'WILDFIRE'

Pan was the Greek god of nature, shepherds, and flocks. Pan, with his goat feet and horned head, scared mortals. Even Nymphs were afraid of him. The nymph Syrinx chose to be transformed into marsh reeds to save herself from Pan's advances. Pan created the first set of panpipes, when seeking her, by cutting the reeds in decreasing size then joining them side by side. This is why he is seen here with panpipes. The lovely scented 'High Fragrance', with its pale white and pink peony flowers, can be seen in the background in full bloom.

The female figure from ancient times to the present is a frequent subject of paintings and sculptures, therefore, it is not surprising that she is also found in the Huntington North Vista. She is a full-figured woman placed in the foreground with the large red 'R.L Wheeler' flowering in the background.

What would you do with 21 ten-foot limestone statues? They would be out of scale in most gardens. The three-tiered landscape design in the North Vista is a wonderful use of azaleas, camellias, palms, and live oaks that creatively enhances these limestone sculptures.



PAN



FEMALE FIGURE



C. nitidissima

NUCCIO'S *Green Bottles*

BY BRADFORD KING

At Southern California camellia shows, Nuccio's Nurseries displays 200 beautiful camellias of which some of the most interesting are in green bottles.

People who visit camellia shows are surprised to learn that there are so many beautiful camellias, and that tea is *C. sinensis*. The Nuccio's usually display camellia species in green bottles. One that catches our eye is *C. nitidissima* with its cup shaped yellow flower. It is one of the parents that hybridizers have used to produce the new yellow cultivars.

YELLOW CAMELLIAS

The green bottles and yellow camellias make a lovely display that shows off the delicate yellow tones of these camellia hybrids.

'Kicho' has a pale yellow small tubular shaped flower that blooms early to midseason on a vigorous upright plant. The name means "precious."

The light-yellow flower of 'Kiho' (Yellow Phoenix) has a small to medium bloom with a tubular form and wavy petals. It blooms early to midseason on a vigorous upright plant.



'KICHO'



'KIHO'



'KI-NO-GOZEN'



'KOGANE-YURI'



'KOGANE-NISHIKI'



'MINATO-NO-AKEBONO'

'Ki-No-Gozen' has a lovely light yellow small single cup shaped bloom that means "presence of yellow." It blooms on a vigorous upright plant in midseason.

The small single soft yellow lily shaped flower of 'Kogane-Yuri' means "yellow lily." It has a heavy bud set and produces an abundance of flowers on a slender upright bush.

The small single trumpet shaped 'Kogane-Nishiki' has slender red stripes and a soft yellow background. It is the result of a cross between *C. nitidissima* and 'Betty Foy Sanders' made by Toichi Domoto.

FRAGRANT CAMELLIAS

A frequent question heard at a camellia show is, "Are there fragrant camellias?" Consequently, the fragrant camellias displayed in green bottles are a favorite. Children and their parents love to smell them. The three most popular are 'Minato-no-akebono', 'Koto-no-kaori', and 'High Fragrance'.



'KOTO-NO-KAORI'



'HIGH FRAGRANCE'

'Minato-no-akebono' has a miniature cup shaped lovely deep pink sweetly scented flower that was named for the smell of a harbor. It grows in an upright manner and has an abundance of flowers early to midseason. The flowers bloom up and down slender branches among the small leaves.

The small dark pink flower of 'Koto-no-kaori' has a rich scent that rivals larger fragrant camellias. The scent reminded its hybridizer, Mr. Hagiya, of an ancient city in Japan. The plant has a lacy upright growth habit producing many flowers early to midseason.

The most popular fragrant camellia bloom is the medium peony formed pale ivory flower with deeper shades of pink of 'High Fragrance'. It grows vigorously in an open manner blooming mid to late season. The foliage is light green. The bushy plant needs be mature before it will have buds and beautiful flowers, but it is worth the wait.

NONRETICULATA HYBRIDS

When *C. japonica* was crossed with *C. saluenensis*, these hybrids are known as *Williamsaii hybrids* named after John Charles Williams of Caerhays Castle in Cornwall, England. Williams died in 1939, and the first hybrid was named 'J.C. Williams' and introduced in 1940. This lovely single small pink flower was the beginning of the inter specific crossing of camellia species which continues today with great success. A cluster of 'J.C. Williams' looks lovely in a green bottle on the Nuccio's display table.



'J.C. WILLIAMS'

Tadao Yamaguchi successfully bred yellow camellias like 'Kicho', 'Kiho', and 'Ki-no-gozen' highlighted above. This breeding program also resulted in his introducing 'Ki-no-joman'. The single flower is a lovely shade of a very light pink that blooms profusely on a bushy upright plant mid to late season.

Dr. Hagiya was undoubtedly both surprised and pleased when a 'Shi-shi-gashira' crossed with *C. yuhsienensis* seedling produced a small single flower with genetic white blotches. He called it 'Yume' which means "Dream." It is particularly attractive when the petals alternate pink and white. The plant grows in a spreading somewhat open manner producing a profusion of flowers up and down the branches. It blooms mid to late season.

A small very dark cluster of 'Night Rider' looks good in a green bottle. This nonreticulata hybrid got its color from 'Kuro-Tsubaki', the black camellia.



'KI-NO-JOMAN'



'YUME'



'NIGHT RIDER'

LOVELY LITTLE BLOOMS

The miniature and small single flowers are typically displayed by Nuccio's in the green bottles. Larger and more complicated blooms, whose heads hang down and easily fall off, are shown in small cups. At home, complicated camellias look good floating in a bowl. A small vase with lovely blooms looks good at home or in a green bottle on the Nuccio's table. This is illustrated by 'Otohime' which has a pink miniature sake cup single flower with white blotches. It is the virus variegated form of *C. japonica* 'Mikawa-sukiya'. The sweet little flower is like a young princess which is what it means in English.

CLUSTER BLOOMING CAMELLIAS

The cluster blooming camellias are not typically show flowers, however, they



NUCCIO'S DISPLAY



'OTOHIME'



'BUNNY EARS'

petals that look like rabbit ears. Both the seed parent *C. rosae-flora* and its seedling, 'Bunny Ears,' are attractive in the Nuccio's green bottles.

CAMELLIA SASANQUA

Typically, the sasanquas bloom in the fall and are widely grown in a sunny location as landscape plants. They have abundant flowers which usually shatter when cut, but occasionally some make it to the green bottles on the Nuccio's table. This is illustrated by 'Autumn Dawn.' The

medium loose peony white toned flower shades to pink on the petal edges. The plant grows upright and is slightly open, blooming late season which is why it can make a winter camellia show.



'AUTUMN DAWN'



'VALENTINE DAY VARIEGATED'

are impressive in the garden with their profuse flowers. They are an excellent choice for floral arranging as illustrated by 'Bunny Ears,' a *C. rosae-flora* hybrid introduced by Nuccio's. The miniature to small semidouble flower is a lovely shade of pink. It gets its name for the upright center

IN CONCLUSION

There are many beautiful camellias on the Nuccio's display table at each Southern California Camellia show. We close this article with the very beautiful *C. reticulata* 'Valentine Day Variegated' because it is awesome!

CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW WINNERS IN 2022

BY DON BERGAMINI

Photos by Brad King

It was a great show season after we were not able to have shows in 2021 due to COVID. It was especially wonderful to see camellia friends. Many beautiful blooms were displayed and were enjoyed by all. Some newer cultivars took the lead in their categories, such as ‘Bella Jinhua’ and ‘Chris Bergamini’. Enjoy the results! Enjoy your summer. See you on the Camellia Trail next year.



‘ELAINE’S BETTY’



‘BELLA JINHUA’



‘SPRING DAZE’

Very Large and Large JAPONICAS

Elaine’s Betty	4
Carter’s Sunburst	3
Ferris Wheel	3
Mary Edna Curlee	3
Elegans Champagne	2
Elegans Splendor	2
Junior Prom	2
Nuccio’s Bella Rossa Var	2
Royal Velvet Var	2
Swan Lake	2
Veiled Beauty	2
7 others with 1 each	

MEDIUM JAPONICAS

Bella Jinhua	5
Betty Foy Sanders	3
Cherries Jubilee	2
Firedance Var	2
Happy Harlequin	2
King’s Cap	2
Nuccio’s Jewel	2
16 others with 1 each	

SMALL (ANY SPECIES)

Spring Daze	3
Takanini	3

Tama Peacock	3
Ave Maria	2
Senritsu Ko	2
Something Beautiful	2
12 others with 1 each	

MINIATURE (ANY SPECIES)

Chris Bergamini	5
Night Rider	3
Ellen Daniel	2
Sue Kendall Var	2
12 others with 1 each	



'CHRIS BERGAMINI'



'FRANK HOUSER'



'ISLAND SUNSET'

RETICULATAS

Frank Houser4
 Miss Tulare4
 Sir Robert Muldoon.....4
 Barbara Goff.....3
 Frank Houser Var2
 Harold Paige.....2
 Linda Leone Ehrhart2
 Valley Knudsen2
 10 others with 1 each

**NON-RETICULATA
 HYBRIDS**

Island Sunset4
 Dancing Blaze2
 Dreamboat2
 Julie Var.....2
 Lucky Star Var.....2
 Pink Dahlia2
 Waltz Time Var.....2
 12 others with 1 each

SPECIES

Shishi Gashira2
 6 others with 1 each

MULTIPLE

JAPONICAS

Cherries Jubilee3
 Julius Nuccio3
 Margaret Davis.....3
 Nuccio's Carousel.....3
 Herme.....2
 Kaleidoscope2
 Nuccio's Bella Rossa.....2
 Royal Velvet2
 Showtime.....2
 Stop.....2
 16 others with 1 each

**BOUTONNIERES
 (ANY SPECIES)**

Maroon and Gold.....4
 Tama Peacock.....4



'SHISHI GASHIRA'

Freedom Bell3
 Party Poppers.....3
 Shikibu3
 Nicky Crisp2
 Night Rider.....2
 Red Devil2
 13 others with 1 each

RETICULATAS

Frank Houser4
 Sir Robert Muldoon.....4
 Blue Twilight2
 Terrell Weaver.....2
 7 others with 1 each

**NON-RETICULATA
 HYBRIDS**

Pink Dahlia3
 Demure.....2
 Hot Stuff.....2
 Waltz Time Var.....2
 2 others with 1 each

SPECIES

3 others with 1 each



C. vietnamensis

SPECIES:

C. VIETNAMENSIS

BY BRADFORD KING

C. vietnamensis has a showy medium to large single white flower with golden stamens. The mildly fragrant flowers bloom late fall and early winter on a vigorous upright somewhat open plant. It originates in China and Vietnam. It is useful in hybridizing for transmitting to its seedlings a large flower with a wonderful cluster of golden stamens and robust growth habit. It is widely cultivated in China for its oil-bearing seeds.

While it is not cold hardy, it is easily cultivated and is not susceptible camellia diseases. Therefore, it is a candidate to investigate to evaluate its resistance to camellia petal blight (*Ciborinia camelliae*).

HIGO TREASURES FROM JAPAN:
‘SHIN-TSUKASA-NISHIKI’

STORY AND PHOTO BY BRADFORD KING

‘Shin-Tsukasa-Nishiki’ is an ancient cultivar with white petals covered with crimson stripes and dots such that it may look pink. It has 160 to 200 stamens with pale yellow filaments. It grows vigorously and blooms late season. The petals may fold back which is also a characteristic of its five sports.

Shin means “new,” tsukasa is a Japanese girl’s name, and nishiki means “brocade” so the name may mean “Tsukasa’s new brocade” or “New Governor’s brocade” depending on the original Japanese characters.



‘SHIN-TSUKASA-NISHIKI’



'TAMA PEACOCK' NEW GROWTH

PARTING SHOT:
UNUSUAL LEAF MARKINGS

BY BRADFORD KING

There are a few camellias that have beautiful new growth. When flowers are over, we can enjoy the colorful flush of new foliage. The new leaves of *C. japonica* 'Tama Peacock' are a beautiful shade of maroon and attract lady bugs who forage among the leaves eating aphids.

The nonreticulata hybrid 'Night Rider' has dark maroon new foliage as well as red stems and roots. While we can't see the roots except when repotting, we can enjoy the maroon foliage in the spring. 'Ferris Wheel' has a very attractive large to very large flower



'NIGHT RIDER' FLORAL ARRANGEMENT
WITH MAROON LEAVES



'FERRIS WHEEL'



'FERRIS WHEEL' LEAF

with pink and red stripes. When in bloom, it can't be overlooked. However, have you noticed some of the new growth has a reddish-brown blotch on its leaves? As the foliage matures, it disappears.

The dark red 'Bella Jinhua' flower, with black veins, is a sport from 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa'. The medium formal double flower is outstanding. The leaves are burgundy for months before turning light green with black streaks and flecks that are less attractive than the early growth.



'BELLA JINHUA' FLOWER WITH SOME OF THE BLACK SPOTTED FOLIAGE



'GRAND PRIX'



'JULIUS NUCCIO'